

Internal cop probe seeks answers

By JOE CANTLUPE
Home News staff writer
Investigations

These questions, emerging in the wake of the vandalism spree at the high school, are being examined by police in an internal investigation that should conclude today, said Deputy Chief George Magyar.

Magyar said police want to determine if "proper procedures" were followed by the officers involved and if not, why.

Two 16-year-olds, not identified by authorities because of their age, are lodged in the county Youth Detention Center following their arrest Monday on charges of burglary and criminal mischief.

Both boys confessed to breaking into and vandalizing the school, police said.

The damage included 120 windows broken, 50 fire extinguishers emptied, a trophy case smashed and three offices ransacked.

"We don't have the final outcome" of the investigation, Magyar said yesterday. "There are

two main points. Did the police do a thorough job of checking the building to see if there was a break-in following the alarm? And the second point concerns the question of notification."

Magyar said it is standard procedure that police notify school officials immediately after an alarm is sounded, but apparently that didn't happen Saturday morning. At 7:40 a.m., the school janitor discovered the vandalism, more than three hours after two patrolmen checked the school when the alarm sounded.

Police said the officers, who have not been identified, found everything to be secure after making a visual exterior inspection of the building. They then left the scene.

The Township Committee and Board of Education members discussed the situation and reviewed procedures regarding the alarm last Monday night.